

Science/Technology/Innovation (STI) Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 12, 2013

The Science/Technology/Innovation (STI) Committee meeting was held in the Madison-Jefferson County Extension office conference room at 7:00 a.m., Wednesday, June 12th. Participants were Tom Harrington, Ted Dodge, Leonard Wortman, Ed Handl and Sherri Rhodes.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 AM by Tom H. The minutes of the May 2013 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Tom H. gave project updates on SBP data center, greenhouse and wind development. Items of note are that Earl and Tim from LGT will be back in the Whitehall area at the end of June, and Ed H. is still waiting to hear back from his contact at Google. LGT requested more detailed internet information as they pursue a data center and Lee G. responded back to them. Lee G. is writing "Top 10 Reasons to Locate a Data Center in Whitehall, MT." The committee looks forward to seeing this.

Tom H. provided an update on the status of the Borden Hotel project. A sale is scheduled for June 21st and 22nd to clear the building of all unnecessary items before the demolition team comes in. Contractor and architects are working together to refine the project budget.

Tom H. also provided an update on the Wind/Solar/Geothermal alternative energy opportunities. Ted D. found an article on energy production from irrigation canal generators. He will pass along to Tom.

Ted D. gave an update on the Pipestone/Jefferson Slough projects and water monitoring issues. There is a DNRC tour today at 10 am. Ted would like to see RFQ's go out soon on Pipestone water monitoring. Jefferson Slough technical committee meeting will be next week. Request for Qualifications will be the preferred method to obtain contract services for the work. Jefferson River water study kick-off meeting is scheduled for July and the project area will be from Cardwell to Twin Bridges. The focus on the Pipestone sedimentation project is exactly what was in HB 6.

Tom H. reported that the Piedmont Wetlands committee will meet tomorrow.

There was no specific school update. The wind tower is operating well. Whitehall school students are being used this summer for Pipestone water monitoring project. The old playground equipment is gone, and new equipment is being installed. Todd B. is giving out weevils for weed eradication.

The meeting was productive and adjourned at 7:36 a.m. The next meeting will be held in the Extension office conference room Wednesday, July 10th at 7:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherri Rhodes